UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1165
12 July 1993

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993

The Special Committee,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 1/

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted to the Secretary-General in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and to take such information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 47/14 of 16 November 1992, in which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII),

Stressing the importance of timely transmission by the administering Powers of adequate information under Article 73 e of the Charter, in particular in relation to the preparation by the Secretariat of the working papers on the Territories concerned,

1. Reaffirms that, in the absence of a decision by the General Assembly itself that a Non-Self-Governing Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in terms of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations,

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1/ A/AC.109/1160.

the administering Power concerned should continue to transmit information under Article 73 e of the Charter with respect to that Territory;

2. Requests the administering Powers concerned to transmit or continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned, within a maximum period of six months following the expiration of the administrative year in those Territories;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate information is drawn from all available published sources in connection with the preparation of the working papers relating to the Territories concerned;

4. Decides, subject to any decision which the General Assembly might take in that connection, to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Chairman on the question, 1/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Taking note with appreciation of the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Government of New Zealand to send a visiting mission to Tokelau in 1994, 2/

1/ A/AC.109/L.1801.

2/ A/AC.109/1162.

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Letter dated 12 July 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee

With reference to the aide-mémoire of the Special Committee dated 9 July 1993 concerning requests from persons as well as organizations to appear before the Special Committee as petitioners to speak about the so-called question of East Timor, I wish to convey the position of my delegation which is as follows:

The process of decolonization in East Timor has been carried out in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), thus terminating the colonial status of the former Territory. Consequently, the integration of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia was formalized on 17 July 1976 as its twenty-seventh province with rights and obligations equal to those of the other provinces.

Base on the foregoing, my delegation reiterates its firm view that any consideration of this so-called question is inappropriate and would constitute unacceptable interference in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of a sovereign Member State. Moreover, granting of a hearing to any petitioner would serve no useful purpose whatsoever.

My delegation, therefore, expresses its strong objection to the participation of petitioners in the deliberations of the Committee.

I would appreciate it if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the Special Committee.

(Signed) Witjaksana SOEGARDA
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires

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COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS) 1/

I. GENERAL

1. The Falkland Islands (Malvinas), which is administered by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, comprises two large islands known as East and West Falkland, as well as some 200 smaller islands, and has a total area of about 12,173 square kilometres. The Territory is situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 770 kilometres north-east of Cape Horn and about 480 kilometres east of the South American mainland. South Georgia, located about 1,300 kilometres east-south-east of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) group, and the South Sandwich Islands, about 750 kilometres east-south-east of South Georgia, are administered from the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a matter of convenience; the Governor of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) acts as Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

2. According to the March 1991 census, the population of the Territory was 2,121, excluding military personnel and contract workers, but including some expatriate staff in permanent posts. Of the total, 1,643 lived in Stanley, the capital, and its environs and the remainder were scattered throughout the Territory. In 1980, according to the census of that year, of 1,813 permanent inhabitants, 1,360 had been born in the Territory and about 300 in the United Kingdom.

II. CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

3. The Constitution of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) came into effect on 18 April 1985. (For details, see the 1985 working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/835 and Corr.1, paras. 4-39)). It vests executive power in a Governor, assisted by an Executive Council consisting of the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary and three members nominated by the elected members of the Legislative Council. It provides that the Legislative Council should consist of eight elected members and the Chief Executive and Financial Secretary as ex officio members.

4. The election of the Legislative Council is regulated by the Constitution, together with the Electoral Ordinance adopted by the Council in 1988. By virtue of these instruments, the Territory is divided into two constituencies for electoral purposes: the Stanley Constituency, which comprises the capital and its environs, and the Camp Constituency, made up of the rest of the Territory. There are four elected members for each constituency and all persons who are Commonwealth citizens 18 years or older and who satisfy the residency requirements are allowed to vote. Elections must be held at intervals not longer than just over four years. The last general election took place in 1989.

III. CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

5. The Special Committee considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) at its 1405th and 1408th meetings, on 27 and 29 July 1992.

6. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1122 and Corr.1).

7. At the 1408th meeting, on 29 July 1992, the representative of Venezuela introduced, on behalf also of Chile, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1786 which was subsequently adopted by 20 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina made a statement (A/AC.109/PV.1408). The delegation of the United Kingdom, the administering Power concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item.

9. On 6 August 1992, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1132) was transmitted to the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom and of Argentina to the United Nations for the attention of their respective Governments.

B. General Assembly

Position of the Government of Argentina

10. During the general debate of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Minister for External Relations and Worship of the Argentine Republic, in the course of his statement on 21 September 1992 (A/47/PV.5), made the following reference to the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): "Another important contribution to stability in our part of the world has been the complete normalization of diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom and the development of growing and fruitful economic and trade links between the two. However, the dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas, Georgia and South Sandwich Islands still persists. Today I reaffirm the sovereign rights of my country over these territories and their maritime areas. The permanent defence and reaffirmation of these inalienable rights are at the core of Argentine foreign policy".

11. In the same statement and in reference to the persisting international conflicts, the Minister for Foreign Affairs added, "Moreover, in some regions there are still significant disputes that, though lacking the tragic aspects of the troubles I have mentioned, none the less impede the consolidation of stability. The case of the Malvinas Islands, to which I shall refer later, is one example. In that regard, the situation has unfortunately been affected recently by unilateral positions taken by the British Government on the sensitive matters of hydrocarbons".

12. In the course of his statement, the Minister for Foreign Affairs also stated, "The recent decision of the United Kingdom Government to move unilaterally into prospecting for oil in the area in dispute is strongly rejected by my country. This rejection has been immediately transmitted to the United Kingdom Government and to the potential prospecting companies. This imprudent step by the United Kingdom stands in the way of the real opportunities for cooperation in the South Atlantic and does not strengthen the good bilateral relationship in which both countries are strongly interested. These developments hinder our developing creative and pragmatic formulas which, without undermining our inalienable rights, would foster cooperation in the South Atlantic. We are convinced that the establishment of a cooperative framework rather than of a confrontational one would benefit all those who live in the South Atlantic area, including the inhabitants of the Malvinas. It is the duty of the Argentine and British Governments to do their utmost towards that end by overcoming major problems such as the ones that I have described".

13. On 19 October 1992, during the general debate of the Fourth Committee the representative of Argentina made a declaration on behalf of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela. In connection with the question of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, noting the current state of bilateral relations between the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, he believed that the understanding between both nations was conducive to the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding a just and lasting solution to the dispute on sovereignty relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands (A/C.4/47/SR.4, para. 60).

Position of the Government of the United Kingdom

14. Speaking in the right of reply during the general debate at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the representative of the United Kingdom stated: "We will continue to work with the Argentine Government to create an atmosphere of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic, and we have made considerable progress in that respect. That progress is predicated on the understanding that sovereignty is not a matter that we are prepared to discuss".

15. During the debate in the Fourth Committee, the representative of the United Kingdom stated, inter alia, that the United Kingdom would continue to work with the Government of Argentina to create an atmosphere of stability and cooperation in the South Atlantic, it being understood that sovereignty was not a matter that the United Kingdom was prepared to discuss.

Contribution by other Member States

16. At a meeting held on the same day, Brazil joined Argentina in expressing hope that the current understanding between Argentina and the United Kingdom would favour the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding a fair and definitive solution to the dispute on the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands (A/C.4/47/SR.4, para. 85).

IV. CONSIDERATION BY OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization of American States

17. At its twenty-third regular session, held at Managua from 6 to 12 June 1993, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) emphasized the excellent status achieved in bilateral relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom since the resumption of their diplomatic relations. It welcomed the will of Argentina to explore the possible peaceful avenues for the settlement of the controversy and, in particular, its positive consideration of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands. The Assembly recalled its resolution AG/RES.928 (XVIII-O/88) requesting Argentina and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute, and decided to continue to examine the question at its future sessions.

V. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

18. In early January 1993, Mr. Douglas Hurd, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs paid an official visit to Argentina, the first such visit by a cabinet minister since the two countries went to war over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) in 1982. 2/

19. Prior to the visit, the British Government issued the following statement: 1/

> "In advance of the Secretary of State's visit to Buenos Aires from 6 to 10 January, Her Majesty's Government wished to reaffirm that the United Kingdom's aim was to develop the best possible relationship with Argentina. The Secretary of State's visit to Argentina was itself testimony of that.
>
> "Her Majesty's Government welcomed the Argentine wish for a relationship of confidence and cooperation. At the same time, the United Kingdom was committed to defending the right of the Falkland Islanders to live under a Government of their own choosing. The Islanders had made it abundantly clear that they wished to remain British and under British jurisdiction. Her Majesty's Government has no doubt about the United Kingdom's sovereignty over the Islands."

20. While in Buenos Aires, Mr. Hurd was reported to have told reporters that the "British Government has no doubt about the sovereignty over the islands and will continue to protect the islanders". 2/

21. On 7 May 1993, the Government of the Argentine Republic issued the following statement with regard to a measure adopted by the Government of the United Kingdom extending its jurisdiction in respect of maritime spaces surrounding the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands: 3/

> "The Argentine Government strongly rejects this measure, reaffirms the legitimate rights of sovereignty of the Argentine Republic over the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and recalls that these territories form

part of the dispute concerning sovereignty which the United Nations recognizes and is keeping under consideration."

22. In a statement issued on 12 May 1993 concerning the extension of the marine zone around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, the Government of the United Kingdom stated, inter alia: 4/

"The need to reinforce conservation arrangements in the area for which Her Majesty's Government is responsible is clear. Accordingly, Ministers decided to strengthen conservation and management of marine resources around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands by the introduction of national measures. These measures are intended to supplement, not replace, the role of CCAMLR [the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources] and are of course fully compatible with it.

"For this reason, the Commissioner for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands issued a Proclamation on 7 May 1993 to provide for the exercise of the Crown's sovereign rights to jurisdiction over a maritime zone. This action will reinforce existing measures under CCAMLR."

23. In a related development, 1/

"The Argentine-British Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs met at Buenos Aires on 6 November 1992 and, again, in London on 4 and 5 May 1993. In addition to its other tasks, the Working Group made progress in the consideration of the Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System, established in the Joint Statement issued in London and Buenos Aires on 25 September 1991, particularly considering matters related to the Direct Communications Link and the Confidence-Strengthening Measures in the Military Sphere established therein."

24. According to reports, the United Kingdom and Argentina were easing military restrictions around the disputed Falkland Islands to reflect growing confidence 11 years after the Falklands War. The Foreign Office in London was reported to have said that contacts were also being extended between the commander of the British Force on the South Atlantic Islands and the relevant Argentine Air Force and naval commanders. 5/

VI. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General 6/

25. The economy of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) had traditionally been based on the raising of sheep, grazed on ranches owned by a few absentee landlords with islanders largely employed as shepherds and labourers. The principal landholder and main employer was the Falkland Islands Corporation (FIC), a United Kingdom company founded in 1851, which owned almost half the land. FIC was taken over by the Shanghai Bank Corporation and its subsidiary the Midland Bank in December 1992. 7/ Revenue being inadequate to cover budgetary expenses, the Territory was financially dependent on the administering Power, which nevertheless did not make large investments in infrastructural development. The way of life remained extremely simple and isolated. The only means of access to

the Territory from the United Kingdom was by sea. After its conflict with Argentina in 1982, the administering Power allocated £3 million to the civilian sector, mainly for business development. A new military airport capable of accommodating wide-bodied commercial jets was also constructed.

26. In the late 1980s, the Territory experienced an unprecedented period of prosperity as a result of the discovery of vast schools of squid in its 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Primarily through the sale of fishing licences to foreign companies, mainly from Asia, revenues rose to £41 million in 1990/91 (£25 million from fisheries), which was adequate to enable the Territory to be financially self-sufficient. Furthermore, owing to the decision of FIC to sell off most of its landholdings for subdivision into small units, the number of privately owned farms and self-employed persons increased significantly. There was a major building programme which included the construction of a new hospital and school, the installation of a new telephone system and the building of an extensive road network.

27. In December 1992 the Penguin News reported that the Territory appeared to be headed towards a major financial crisis. According to the report, revenue derived from fishing licences would generate a maximum of only £13.7 million in 1992/93, against an expected revenue of £23.8 million, thereby creating a shortfall of £10.1 million. The situation was expected to be further compounded by an expected decline in income of £1 million from jobs related to fisheries, and a reduction in income from investment resulting from lower interest rates. 8/

28. According to the periodical, 8/ the following measures were taken or envisaged by the Executive Council to deal with the situation:

(a) A reduction in capital expenditure of £3.7 million, from £16.7 million to £13 million. These adjustments to projects were approved by the Executive Council;

(b) Planned cuts in operating expenditures of £2.8 million, from £22.8 million to £20 million. These proposed reductions were being considered by the heads of departments of the Territory's administration. The Executive Council, advised by the Financial Secretary, would make the final decisions;

(c) Possible increases in tax and customs duty; proposals to this effect had been put before councillors but were being further considered. It was estimated that the increases would not replace the loss in fisheries income but would help to meet the operating expenses of essential public services. The councillors' approval was needed for any such increases.

29. The periodical also stated that if the planned cuts in expenditure were met, the islands' deficit in June 1993 would range between £900,000 at best and £6.6 million in the worst case scenario. It added that the deficit for 1992 would be met from the Territory's reserves, which stood at £49 million. The Financial Secretary was quoted by the periodical as having said that it was unlikely that fisheries income would return to former levels. He added that until other external revenues were available, it would be necessary for the people of the Territory to adjust to the reality of the existing economic

climate and not expect to enjoy the high standards of living and service they had become accustomed to in recent years. 8/

30. There is a possibility that offshore oil reserves will prove to be significant.

B. Agriculture, land tenure and livestock

31. According to reports in the press, 6/ as a result of the subdivision of FIC holdings and the slump in the wool market, the traditional farming communities have begun to disintegrate. Although there are more privately owned farms than before, fewer than 500 people were reported to live on farms in 1991. To help them weather the crisis, farmers are relying on government wool subsidies and mortgage relief, for which purpose up to £2 million was set aside in 1991. None the less, it is reported that many former farm workers, including shepherds and others, are unemployed or are barely getting by, doing road building, and that some farms might go out of business despite subsidies. 6/

32. The Penguin News indicated recently, however, that there was potential for sheep farming in the islands on a larger scale than presently, as there is an abundance of nutritious pasture. The publication also points out that in nearly all land allotments, there are both highlands and meadows, which makes alternate grazing possible and, thus, further enhances the prospects of large-scale sheep farming. 9/

C. Fisheries

33. The Territory's revenues derive mainly from the sale of licences to foreign trawlers fishing for squid, a species which is highly migratory and may desert the area at any time.

34. Following meetings with Argentina, a joint statement was agreed upon on 28 November 1990, aimed at enhancing fisheries conservation in the South Atlantic. A South Atlantic Fisheries Commission was established to discuss conservation over the whole area and to meet twice a year, alternately at Buenos Aires and London. It was also agreed that all fishing would be banned in an area outside the Falkland Inner Conservation and Management Zone (FICZ) but within 200 miles of the Islands (except in the west). This area was designated the Falklands Outer Conservation and Management Zone (FOCZ). Fishing within FICZ continues to be administered by the Falkland Islands Government, which pays strict attention to conservation requirements in issuing licences. Patrolling in FOCZ is the responsibility of the Government, although the Government of Argentina is entitled to exercise flag State jurisdiction over its own vessels.

35. The South Atlantic Fisheries Commission met in London in December 1991 and in Buenos Aires in May 1992, inter alia, to discuss all aspects of monitoring the ban in FOCZ. During both meetings, the two delegations agreed to include "the formula regarding sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas agreed upon by the Argentine and United Kingdom Governments in point two of the joint

declaration issued in Madrid on 19 October 1989" (see A/AC.109/1122, paras. 26-28).

36. The fourth meeting of the Commission was held in London on 23 and 24 November 1992. According to the joint statement issued following that meeting, both delegations had discussed, inter alia, the establishment of scientific research cruises during the following year and the framework of cooperation within which they would be useful. 1/

37. Press reports indicate that the Territory's fisheries sector was seriously affected when, in December 1992, Argentina offered a new commercial deal to fishing vessels in the area. 10/ According to the reports, Argentina appeared to have lured a great number of Japanese ships from the Falklands fisheries by offering half-price licences and allowing a seven-month yearly fishing season in Argentine waters, in contrast to the three-month limit set by the United Kingdom in the territorial waters. 11/

38. Also according to press reports, some Taiwanese and Korean ships were expected to follow the example set by the Japanese ships. In total, these defections would cost the Territory between £8 million and £16 million, 10/ that is, 20 to 43 per cent of the licence income which had enabled the Territory to do without development aid from the United Kingdom. 11/

39. During the fifth meeting of the Commission, which took place at Buenos Aires on 10 and 11 December 1992, both delegations considered guidelines for the total effort and expectations for the 1993 fishery season. In this respect, the Argentine delegation expressed the readiness of its Government to authorize, within the context of the Decree 1493/92 (charter of jiggers), a maximum of 45 fishing permits. Both delegations decided to recommend to their Governments the extension for a further one-year period of the total temporary ban on commercial fishing for vessels of any flag in the maritime area described in the annex to the Joint Statement on the Conservation of Fisheries issued on 28 November 1990. 1/

40. Following the agreements reached at that meeting, the first joint scientific research cruise took place from 18 January to 17 February 1993, with the participation of Argentine and British scientists. The research covered the most significant offshore species in the maritime area of concern to the Commission. 1/

41. The Territory's Director of Fisheries is reported to have stated that the initiative to limit the Argentinian fishing licences to 45 would not prove of much benefit to the Islands. According to the Director, it was feared that many of the ships which would be disappointed at not receiving an Argentine licence would then attempt to fish on the high seas rather than return to the territorial waters, and some might even try poaching in the Argentine zone. 12/

42. The Director also reportedly said that Argentina had granted fewer licences than expected but that those were for longer periods of time than the territorial licences. This, coupled with the absence of any voluntary restraint agreement on fishing quantities, and the fact that the marine vessels would be allowed to fish for small squid, would be detrimental both to the Territory's economy and to its plan for marine conservation. 12/

43. At the sixth meeting of the Commission, which took place in London on 14 and 15 June 1993, the Commission received the report of the first meeting of the Scientific Subcommittee, established in a Joint Statement of 23 December 1992, which held its session in London from 9 to 11 June 1993. The Commission also considered legislation and conservation measures and listened to a presentation on future cooperation, taking into account the said Joint Statement of the fifth meeting. The Commission agreed to meet again at Buenos Aires in September 1993. 1/

44. In May 1993, the British Government announced that it was extending its territorial waters around the south Atlantic islands of South Georgia and South Sandwich from 12 to 200 miles due to concern at over-fishing. 13/

45. On 7 May 1993, the Argentine and British Governments issued a Joint Statement in London and Buenos Aires regarding the question of conservation of fisheries around South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Both Governments agreed that there was a need to strengthen the valuable measures adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to renew their efforts in that context, in order to ensure effective conservation of marine living resources in the southern Ocean. 1/

D. Industry

46. The Falkland Islands Development Corporation (FIDC) was established in 1984 to advise the territorial Government on matters pertaining to economic development. The Corporation is an agency for local allocation of development loans and grants to new enterprises. It also takes up shares in, and sometimes wholly owns, development enterprises and services with the aim of increasing self-sufficiency and exports of processed and manufactured products.

47. FIDC took the initiative in 1991/92 to set up two important bodies: the Falkland Islands Textile Association for those involved in the processing of Falklands wool, and the Energy Advisory Committee to make proposals on the development of renewable energy.

48. With assistance from FIDC, a number of small businesses have been established. Currently, some 62 small businesses receive support from FIDC. These include a taxi service, a bus service, an electronics repair service, a mechanical repair shop, a number of restaurants, bars and retail outlets, a metal-working business, a driving school and a laundry. Other projects assisted by FIDC are a poultry farm and a market garden, which produce sufficient eggs and vegetables to supply the local community and the military. Two dairies have also been set up, as well as two bakeries and a butchery.

E. Tourism

49. The Territory's main attraction for tourists is its wildlife, including seals, penguins and albatrosses. Tourists from Europe and North America are discouraged, however, by the high cost of air fare. Also, there is a shortage of up-to-date tourist facilities. Although the administering Power has invested around £250,000 in tourist promotion and related activities in London and

Stanley, in 1990 there were fewer than 200 tourists, 50 per cent short of the projected figure. Tourist lodges, two of which were opened recently, are asking the Government for subsidies to remain in business. One article expressed the hope that the Government would make the necessary commitment because, for the time being, tourism was the only potentially reliable means of income for the Territory and could provide an immediate step towards self-sufficiency. It was hoped that new roads and the air connections to South America will boost tourism.

50. A local publication reported that the revenue for the 1993 tourist season was expected to be about £700,000 which, after all import costs (foodstuffs, drinks, fuel, vehicle costs and insurance) were levied, would leave the Territory with a net benefit of £250,000. The territorial Government was considering a recommendation to impose a £10 landing fee per tourist, which would bring the islands an additional £40,000. 14/

51. The average overall cost per day and per tourist for a vacation in the islands ranged between £180 and £400. The publication also said that the tourist industry had experienced a growth of 580 per cent between 1988 and 1993. 14/

52. The Argentine-British Joint Statement issued in Madrid on 15 February 1990 said that "the British delegation recognized the Argentine readiness to facilitate communications and trading opportunities between the Islands and the mainland." 15/ In that spirit, the Argentine officials have stated their Government's willingness also to facilitate the establishment of communications between the Islands and the countries neighbouring Argentina. They have announced that their Government has authorized requests received from Chilean commercial air transport companies to operate non-scheduled flights carrying tourists between Punta Arenas, Chile, and the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands (see also para. 69). 1/

F. Oil 14/

53. As yet unknown quantities of oil are believed to lie in the continental shelf around the Territory.

54. On 22 November 1991, the United Kingdom and Argentina made simultaneous announcements regarding continental shelf legislation. The United Kingdom issued a proclamation providing for the exercise of its rights over the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf around the Falklands; an ordinance permitting seismic surveying was also passed. On that day, Argentina issued its maritime spaces law, which establishes that from the baselines it fixes, maritime spaces will be measured comprising territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The law covers the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands maritime spaces and continental shelf.

55. On 9 December 1991, following a meeting in London, it was announced that Argentina and the United Kingdom had agreed to form a High-level Group for the purpose of exploring the implications of their respective legislative measures of 22 November and the scope for cooperation on any activities deriving

therefrom. It was indicated that the meeting had been held under the sovereignty umbrella contained in the Madrid Declaration of 1989.

56. The High-level Group met at Buenos Aires on 26 and 27 February 1992 and in London, on 13 and 14 July 1992. According to the parties, both meetings were held in a cordial atmosphere and contributed significantly to the clarification of the respective viewpoints of the two countries. Both sides agreed to exchange ideas further and said that a follow-up meeting of the Group would be held at an appropriate time.

57. On 10 July 1992, it was reported in the Penguin News, the Territory's local newspaper, that if clearance was obtained from the United Kingdom, a £7 million seismic survey operation study would begin in October 1992. The study would be undertaken by two companies, a United Kingdom company named Spectrum, and GECO, a United Kingdom subsidiary of the Schlumberger Group of France, both of which would share the area to be surveyed, "which covers the entire continental shelf". The Territory would receive a free copy of the findings of the survey and have a direct say concerning which companies should be allowed to buy them. The Government would also receive royalties from such sales. It would probably take at least five years, however, before the first test rig appeared and another five years before oil could possibly be exploited commercially.

58. In November 1992, the United Kingdom Government authorized oil exploration around the islands, and the Territory's Legislative Council passed a bill permitting licensed surveys of the continental shelf. 16/

59. The Government of Argentina responded to these initiatives by reiterating its claim to the Territory when, in the same month, President Carlos Menem approved a bill of Congress setting out Argentina's right to all mineral deposits within 200 miles of the islands. 16/

60. In a communiqué released on this issue, the Argentine authorities made it clear that they do not accept or acquiesce to British sovereignty over the islands, nor do they agree that the United Kingdom has a right to invite companies to undertake surveys in the territorial waters. 16/

61. Also in November 1992, the Argentine embassy in London stated that talks would take place between the United Kingdom and the Argentine Governments on oil exploration in London the following month, and at Buenos Aires the following year. 16/

62. According to press reports, no oil exploration mandated by the territorial Government would take place in an area west of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), where the United Kingdom's 200-mile zone overlaps with a similar and undisputed Argentine area. 16/

63. The same reports indicate that Argentina has started some oil exploration off its coast, but so far without success. Also, according to a source in the oil industry, for oil production in the south Atlantic to become profitable, Gulf oil would have to reach US$ 30 a barrel (its current price being US$ 21) or its supply would become severely unreliable. 16/

64. A three-month seismic survey of the territorial waters began in January 1993 when the Akademik Shatskiy, a survey ship flying the Russian Federation flag, arrived at Stanley. The vessel was chartered by GECO which, as mentioned above, is one of two companies contracted to carry out the oil exploration around the islands. 17/

G. Energy

65. A power station has been installed at the Fox Bay East settlement. Throughout the rest of the Territory, other than Port Stanley, power is derived from small-engined generators.

66. During 1990, by the installation of new equipment, the power station's maximum output was 4.7 megawatts. A 10-kilowatt wind generator was placed on Pebble Island in 1987. Interest in solar energy is reportedly growing.

H. Transport and communications

67. There are 110 kilometres of roads in the Territory outside Stanley, of which approximately 20 per cent are surfaced in bitumen, asphalt or concrete. The remainder are all-weather roads of crushed stone surface. There are no railways in the Territory.

68. It will be recalled that the Government of the Territory operates an internal air service using three twin-engined Islander aircraft. The main airport, located at Mount Pleasant, about 30 kilometres from Stanley, has a runway of 2,590 metres and is capable of receiving wide-bodied jet aircraft. There are flights to and from the United Kingdom twice a week and, since May 1990, a small Chilean airline, Aerovías DAP, has provided regular fortnightly service between Punta Arenas in southern Chile and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It was reported in September 1991 that an Uruguayan airline was also being granted permission to fly passengers and cargo to the Territory. Airmail is flown regularly via Ascension Island.

69. As stated previously (para. 52), the Argentine-British Joint Statement issued in Madrid on 15 February 1990 said that "the British delegation recognized the Argentine readiness to facilitate communications and trading opportunities between the islands and the mainland". 14/ In that spirit, the Argentine officials have stated their Government's willingness to also facilitate the establishment of communications between the Islands and the countries neighbouring Argentina. They have announced that the Argentine Government has authorized the Chilean commercial air transport company to operate scheduled flights carrying passengers, mail and cargo on the Punta Arenas-Rio Gallegos (optional stop-over)-Falkland (Malvinas) Islands route. Additionally, it extended an exceptional authorization to the same company to operate the flight on the Rio Gallegos-Falkland (Malvinas) Islands route. The said company had already been operating non-scheduled flights between Punta Arenas and the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands under Argentine authorization.

70. Inter-island sea transport is offered by two small cargo vessels, of 144 and 229 tons respectively, both operated by a local shipping company. There is

a shipping service between the United Kingdom and the Territory, with cargo vessels arriving approximately every month.

71. There is a government-owned and operated telephone system at Stanley and an extensive radio-telephone network throughout the Territory. An international service, first established in 1968, has now been extended to a full 24-hours-a-day service. During 1990, Cable and Wireless continued installation of a £5.4 million digital telecommunications network spanning the entire Territory. Its cost is shared by the Falkland Islands Government and Cable and Wireless, which also supplies the Territory's international service.

72. Radio broadcasts are provided by the Falkland Islands Broadcasting Station, a non-commercial radio operating 24 hours a day, financed jointly by the Government and by the British Forces Broadcasting Service, a division of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) of the United Kingdom. A television service also operated by SSVC is available in Stanley and some areas of East Falkland. It currently broadcasts for about five hours each day. It is expected that this service will be extended to most parts of the Territory.

I. Banking

73. The only bank in the Territory is the Standard Chartered Bank of the United Kingdom, which opened a branch at Stanley in December 1983 and provides a full range of banking facilities. Both United Kingdom and local coinage are used, together with local currency notes of values £20, £10, £5 and £1.

J. Public finance

74. Ordinary revenue decreased from £42.1 million for the year ended June 1989 to an estimated £38.5 million in 1990. Major sources of revenue included fisheries and the issuance of fishing licences, personal and company tax, public works, customs and harbour receipts, post and telecommunications and aviation.

75. Corresponding information for 1990 expenditures is not available. In 1989, total expenditure amounted to £32.6 million as compared with £31.1 million in 1988. Of the 1989 expenditure, £18.1 million represented ordinary expenditure, £3 million was transferred to the development fund and £11.5 million was development expenditure to be met from the United Kingdom Fund.

76. Traditionally, the United Kingdom has been the most important trading partner of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). In 1990, however, although the United Kingdom continued to be the largest source of the Territory's imports, over 90 per cent of the foreign exchange earnings came from other sources. The major sources of earnings were the sale of fishing licences and the export of wool.

77. The largest category of imports since 1988 has been capital goods, namely, plant and machinery for the construction of industry, motor vehicles and central heating systems. Fuel oil and food remain the most important consumer imports. No import statistics have been maintained since 1986.

78. In May 1993, the Penguin News reported that a surplus of nearly £4 million was expected for this year's budget which, according to the Governor, represented a dramatic improvement from the situation in November and December 1992. The newspaper said that next year there should be a surplus of the same order, although, according to the Governor, this would depend on external factors, namely, a satisfactory squid season and the agreement with Argentina limiting the number of fishing licences it issues. 18/

VII. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour and employment

79. Traditionally, there has been full employment in the Territory. During the period under review, however, as noted above, unemployment was reported owing to the decline in sheep farming.

80. There are established scales of wages for Stanley and for the Camp. As of 1 January 1991, the latest date for which information is available, hourly wages at Stanley were as follows: handymen, £3.24 to £3.58; labourers, £3.17; skilled labourers, £3.24 to £3.58 and £3.61 to £3.94. A 40-hour week is customary.

81. In the Camp, minimum monthly wages for a 40-hour week for agricultural workers were between £300 and £400. In addition, a cost-of-living adjustment was paid to all Camp employees. Labourers and shepherds also received free quarters, fuel, meat and milk. Extra bonuses were paid for shearing, while labourers and shepherds were able to add to their earnings by engaging in contract work, such as fencing and peat cutting. Employees in the Camp are given 21 annual holiday days, including nine public holidays.

82. There are a number of overseas personnel working under contract, including St. Helenian workers who are often employed on short-term contracts to fill essential vacancies.

83. Various government departments and certain other employers at Stanley have apprenticeship schemes for training the limited number of craftsmen required.

B. Housing

84. The majority of the houses in Stanley are privately owned. The Government owns a number of houses which are rented to government employees and other residents of Stanley.

85. As reported previously (A/AC.109/1122 and Corr.1), the administering Power had reported that housing development undertaken by the Government and other sponsors was complete. The territorial Government, having completed a programme of "general needs" housing construction, was concentrating resources on the provision of single-person housing and serviced plots for self-builders and local companies. There was reported to be increasing involvement in construction by the private sector.

C. Public health

86. Medical and dental treatment and drugs are free to the residents of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). All employed persons are required to pay a medical service levy of 1 per cent of their salary and employers, 1.5 per cent of the salary paid. Self-employed persons contribute 1.5 per cent of their net income for medical services.

87. There is no private system of medical care. The Falkland Islands Government Medical Department employs 6 registered medical practitioners, 10 registered nurses, 6 midwives, 8 untrained nursing auxiliaries, 3 laboratory and X-ray technicians, 1 dental surgeon, 1 pharmacist and 1 physiotherapist.

88. There is a joint civilian/military hospital, the King Edward Memorial Hospital, which was opened in 1987. Built at a cost of approximately £13 million, this hospital is equipped with 28 beds, including 2 for intensive care and 2 for maternity units. Facilities include an operating theatre suite, a pathology laboratory, an X-ray department and a casualty resuscitation department. The hospital civilian medical service provides primary care to the population of the Territory, to some military personnel and to the crews of the fishing fleets operating around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). It also provides airborne medical service to outlying farm settlements. Cases requiring specialist facilities are transferred to the United Kingdom via the Royal Air Force Medevac system.

89. In addition to its therapeutic function, the Medical Department of the Territory is also involved in a range of preventive medicine activities, including operating child health clinics, school medical services, immunization programmes, well-woman clinics and health education and family planning programmes.

90. The general state of health and nutrition of the population is reported to be good. The principal causes of death are cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections of the aged.

91. Old age pensions and child allowances are provided, and charitable relief is administered by the Medical Department. Medical care, which is funded by a 1 per cent levy on income, is provided free of charge. The total budget of the Medical Department for 1990/91 was estimated at £1,643,110. 19/

D. Educational conditions

92. Education is compulsory and is provided free of charge for children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Facilities are available for further studies beyond the statutory school-leaving age.

93. In 1991, the latest year for which information is available, 147 pupils attended the primary school at Stanley, while 132 pupils attended the secondary school in the capital. A further 63 pupils received education in rural districts. A new secondary school, for 200 pupils, was scheduled to open in 1992. Total expenditure on education and training was estimated at £1,542,780 for 1990/91. 19/

94. Although the Spanish language has been reintroduced in the school curriculum, all instruction in the schools of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is provided in the English language. The textbooks are obtained from the United Kingdom and opportunities exist for students to further their education in that country, with financing by the United Kingdom Government, which also makes available bursaries for tertiary training.

E. Human rights

95. According to the administering Power, the principles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are observed in the Territory. In addition, the administering Power has extended to the Territory the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, although they are not embodied in any one legislative instrument. The Constitution forbids the enactment of laws that are discriminatory.

F. Status of women

96. According to the administering Power, in conformity with articles 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, there is no discrimination on the basis of sex in the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). There are, however, many more men than women.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived from the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as from the previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1122) and several published reports.

2/ Keesing's Record of World Events, vol. 39, No. 1, 1993.

3/ A/48/162-S/25742, annex.

4/ A/48/167-S/25773, annex I.

5/ Reuters report (London), July 1993.

6/ The information contained in this sub-section has been obtained from Geographical Magazine, June 1991; The Financial Times (London), 20 March 1992; and The Economist (London), 25 April 1992.

7/ The Guardian, 15 December 1992.

8/ Penguin News, 18 December 1992.

9/ Ibid., 8 May 1993.

10/ The Manchester Guardian, 13 December 1992.

11/ The Guardian, 12 December 1992.

12/ Penguin News, 23 December 1992.

13/ Reuters report (London), 6 May 1993.

14/ Penguin News, 14 April 1993.

15/ A/45/136-S/21159, annex.

16/ The Guardian, 23 November 1992.

17/ Penguin News, 22 January 1993.

18/ Ibid., 1 May 1993.

19/ The Europa World Yearbook, vol. II, 1992.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1169
14 July 1993

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1420th meeting, on 14 July 1993

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of 17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988 and its resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/855 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991 and A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. Reiterates that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. Takes note of the views expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina on the occasion of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

3. Regrets that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. Requests the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. Reiterates its firm support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. Decides to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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16 July 1993

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

NEW CALEDONIA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. GENERAL

1. New Caledonia is located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,500 kilometres east of Australia and 1,700 kilometres north of New Zealand. It comprises one large island, known as Grande Terre, and several smaller islands. To the east of Grande Terre are the Loyalty Islands (Ouvéa, Maré, Lifou and Tiga); to the north, the Bélep Archipelago; and to the south, the Isle of Pines and Huon Island. There are also several uninhabited islands to the north of the Loyalty Islands. The area of Grande Terre is 16,750 square kilometres and that of all the islands combined, 19,103 square kilometres. Nouméa, the capital, is located in the south of Grande Terre.

2. According to the 1989 census, the population was 164,173, comprising 73,598 indigenous Melanesians known as Kanaks (44.8 per cent); 55,085 persons of European origin, mainly French (33.6 per cent), of whom 35,000 persons, known as Caldoches, are descendants of the early settlers; 18,936 Wallisians and Tahitians (11.5 per cent); and 16,554 others, mainly Indonesians and Vietnamese (10.1 per cent). It is estimated that in 1991 the population was 170,000 persons.

3. Under the Matignon Agreements of 1988, the Territory is divided into three provinces, the South and the North (on Grande Terre) and the Loyalty Islands. Each province has an elected Assembly, which is responsible for local economic development, land reform and cultural affairs. Together, the members of the assemblies constitute the Territorial Congress, which is responsible for the territorial budget and fiscal affairs, infrastructure and primary education. The presidents of the assemblies, along with the President of the Territorial Congress and the French High Commissioner, form the territorial executive. Local government is conducted by 32 municipalities. 1/

4. In order to safeguard Kanak tradition, there are also eight customary regions, each with its own Consultative Customary Council, as well as a Territory-wide Customary Council.

5. In the French National Assembly, New Caledonia is represented by two popularly elected deputies, as well as by one Senator and one Councillor for Economic and Social Affairs. The Territory is represented in the European Parliament. 2/

6. There are two principal political groupings and numerous small parties. The two main groupings are the Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR), which favours retaining a relationship with France and the Front de libération nationale kanake socialiste (FLNKS), a coalition of parties that favour independence from France. The constituents of FLNKS include the Parti de libération kanak (PALIKA), the Parti socialiste calédonien (PSC), the Union calédonienne (UC) and the Union progressiste mélanésienne. 3/

7. Elections were held in 1988. RPCR controls the Provincial Assembly of the South and, by virtue of its representation in the other two assemblies, half of the 54 seats in the Territorial Congress. RPCR members represent New Caledonia in the French National Assembly and Senate. FLNKS controls the provincial assemblies in the North and in the Loyalty Islands and has 19 seats in the Territorial Congress.

8. The Matignon Agreements (see A/AC.109/1000, paras. 9-14) provide for a self-determination referendum to be held in 1998, following a 10-year period of development during which efforts would be concentrated on effecting a more equitable economic distribution among the three provinces and providing education and training that would enable Kanaks to participate equally in the economy and Government of the Territory.

II. CONSIDERATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

9. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples considered the question of New Caledonia at its 1403rd and 1406th to 1409th meetings, between 22 and 30 July 1992. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/1120).

10. At its 1406th and 1407th meetings, on 28 July and at its 1408th meeting on 29 July, the Committee heard statements from several petitioners. The representative of the Solomon Islands made a statement on behalf of the nine members countries of the South Pacific Forum (A/AC.109/PV.1408). At the 1409th meeting, on 30 July, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement in the course of which he introduced, on behalf also of Fiji, draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1787. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted that draft resolution by consensus without a vote.

11. By that resolution the Special Committee, noting the importance of the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, to promote political, economic and social developments in the Territory, welcomed, inter alia, the call by the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreements, at its meeting in Paris in October 1991, for greater progress in housing, employment, training, education and health care in New Caledonia; and commended the decision to establish a Melanesian cultural centre as a contribution to preserving the indigenous culture of New Caledonia.

12. On 6 August 1992, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1133) was transmitted to the Permanent Representative of France for the attention of his Government.

13. In accordance with its previous decision, the Special Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/1133 on New Caledonia during its consideration of the item at its forty-seventh session.

B. General Assembly

14. In their statements in the general debate at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the following delegations referred to the question of New Caledonia: Solomon Islands (A/47/PV.27), Fiji and Papua New Guinea (A/47/PV.30).

15. During the general debate in the Fourth Committee, the Committee heard two petitioners on the question of New Caledonia on 19 October 1992: Mr. Paul Néaoutyine, on behalf of FLNKS, and Mr. Jean-Paul Tidjine, on behalf of the Congrès Populaire Kanak (A/C.4/47/SR.5, paras. 4-19).

16. Several delegations made reference to the question of New Caledonia under the agenda item on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

17. Speaking on behalf of the nine member countries of the South Pacific Forum that are Members of the United Nations - Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands - the representative of Solomon Islands stressed that decolonization had a particular place in the deliberations of the South Pacific Forum, given that South Pacific Islands figured prominently among the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. He mentioned that at their meeting earlier in the year, Heads of Government of the Forum member countries had paid special attention to New Caledonia. They had noted the positive measures being pursued in New Caledonia by the French authorities, in cooperation with all sectors of the population to promote equitable political, economic and social development so as to provide a framework for the Territory's peaceful evolution to self-determination. He went on to say that the Forum had been encouraged by the continuing progress made in the implementation of the Matignon Agreements (A/C.4/47/SR.6, paras. 27 and 28).

18. Speaking also on behalf of Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, the representative of Argentina referred also to the question of New Caledonia. In that regard, he stated that those countries considered that dialogue between the parties was the most appropriate method of finding just solutions and adopting the necessary measures to ensure that, within the framework of the Matignon Agreements, the inhabitants of New Caledonia would be able to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions in 1998 (A/C.4/47/SR.4, para. 62).

19. For his part, the representative of Australia stated that, as a South Pacific nation, Australia attached particular importance to the situation in New Caledonia. The decolonization of New Caledonia, he stated, "represents a particularly complex decolonization situation, requiring sensitivity, cooperation and goodwill by all parties involved ... Australia believes that the interests of New Caledonia and of regional stability require a peaceful, orderly transition to genuine self-determination in which all options, including independence, would be open, and which would safeguard the rights of the indigenous Kanaks and those of all other New Caledonians ... Australia has been much encouraged by the achievements recorded over the last four years under the Matignon Accords ..." (A/C.4/47/SR.7, para. 54).

20. The French delegation, speaking as the administering Power of New Caledonia, stated, inter alia, that for more than four years New Caledonia had been experiencing a profoundly changed economic, political and social climate which could not have emerged if the spirit of openness had not prevailed over confrontation and violence. The dialogue between the parties had led to the signing of the Matignon and Oudinot Agreements which were based on three main principles: the right to self-determination, decentralization, land redistribution, and the economic and social development of the Territory (A/C.4/47/SR.6, para. 1).

21. After more than four years, the representative of France continued, the spirit of the Matignon and Oudinot Agreements remained unaltered. The French authorities were determined to ensure that in 1998 the inhabitants of New Caledonia would be able to exercise their right to self-determination under the best possible conditions (A/C.4/47/SR.6, para. 8).

22. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand also stated that he fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of the Solomon Islands on behalf of the States members of the South Pacific Forum. The attitude of the various parties, he said, was very encouraging (A/C.4/47/SR.6, para. 56).

23. On the same subject, the representative of the Philippines welcomed the measures being pursued by the French authorities to promote equitable political, economic and social development, and took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Matignon Agreements (A/C.4/47/SR.6, para. 64).

24. For his part, the representative of Papua New Guinea, endorsing the position of the South Pacific Forum countries as set out in the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-third South Pacific Forum (A/47/391, annex) expressed the hope that New Caledonia would achieve self-determination and independence as soon as possible, with the active involvement of the United Nations, and in accordance with the wishes of the Kanaks and their representatives as well as all the people of New Caledonia (A/C.4/47/SR.8, para. 38).

25. At its 8th meeting, on 3 November 1992, the Fourth Committee adopted, by consensus, the draft resolution submitted by the Special Committee concerning New Caledonia.

III. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Meeting of the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreements

26. The Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreements, composed of the three parties to New Caledonia's peace accords, namely, the French Government, RPCR and FLNKS, met for the fourth time from 2 to 4 February 1993, in Paris, in order to review the progress of the Matignon Agreements. 4/

27. The three parties agreed that, during the period under review, overall progress had been made. 4/

28. At the review meeting, the main concern of FLNKS was the question of electoral reform and the choices to be offered in the 1998 referendum. Those,

FLNKS emphasized, were pivotal elements in their signature of the accords in 1988. It pointed out that owing to heavy settlement encouraged by past French Governments, Kanaks numbered only 45 per cent of the population. 4/ The Matignon Agreements stipulate that, only those who were eligible to vote in the 1988 referendum which established the peace process and who remain continuously domiciled in New Caledonia, as well as their children born in New Caledonia and who reach the voting age, are to be eligible to vote in the crucial 1998 referendum.

29. At the review meeting, Mr. Paul Néaoutyine, the leader of FLNKS, complained that a special roll was to have been established and be updated regularly. That, he said, had not been done. FLNKS was fearful that without adequate controls many more would vote in the 1998 referendum. 4/

30. The FLNKS delegation noted that the construction of the Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre, which is one of the great commitments of the French State, was an important step forward. 4/

31. Mr. Jacques Lafleur, leader of RPCR also expressed fears concerning the referendum, which he said could be a "guillotine that kills all hope of discussion". He said that he would prefer to see a consensus to forego the referendum and have the peace plan prolonged. Mr. Lafleur stressed the importance of preserving the spirit of understanding, including the way that choices on the Territory's future were approached. 4/

32. Speaking on behalf of the Government, Mr. Louis Le Pensec, then Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, pointed out that there were three types of problems to be addressed in the wake of the dramatic events of 1988. First, he said, the wounds caused by the period of conflict needed to be healed; secondly, there was a need to reduce progressively the economic and social handicaps; and thirdly, problems related to urban segregation, unemployment, alcohol and drug abuse among the young required attention as a matter of priority. 4/

33. Turning to the future, Mr. Le Pensec said that areas in which more progress was necessary were education, the nickel mining sector and regional links. 4/

34. As far as education was concerned, the review meeting concluded that more effort should be made to adapt the education system to the needs of the Kanaks, and to build schools (see paras. 93-95). 4/

35. The meeting praised the work done in the field of regional cooperation by territorial leaders and by the French High Commissioner. It stated that the French University of the Pacific needed to have more links with Melanesian countries and with the University of the South Pacific at Suva. 4/

36. At the review meeting it was decided that officials from the provincial governments would be involved in immigration control, which was the responsibility of the French Government. At its last Congress earlier in the year, FLNKS had expressed concern regarding a lack of adequate controls over immigration and the importance of such controls to the referendum in 1998. 4/

37. The meeting determined that television coverage should focus more on local events and that the recruitment of Kanak and other local journalists should be accelerated. 4/

38. In the economic development field, a free trade zone and port at Nepuoi on the west coast of the Territory was to be developed. Minister Le Pensec confirmed that France would finance the project when feasibility studies were finalized. It was also decided that New Caledonia's economy should be diversified, air links should be improved and that the marine zone should be transferred from State to local jurisdiction. 4/

39. In his address to the meeting on 4 February 1993, Mr. Pierre Bérégovoy, Prime Minister of France, reiterated the Government's commitment to provide annually a total of 1.65 billion French francs or 30 billion Communauté financière du Pacifique francs (CFPF) 5/ to be distributed to all three provinces, in accordance with the distribution criteria established by the law of referendum. As part of its concern over the efficiency of the teaching system, the Prime Minister said that the Government would increase its contribution by 15 million French francs towards the construction of lycées in New Caledonia. Education efforts could not be limited only to the training of high-level cadres. 6/

40. In his intervention on 4 February 1993, regarding the signing of the contracts on development between the State and the three Provinces, Mr. Le Pensec stated, inter alia, that the contracts were a direct result of the Matignon Agreements and of the law of referendum. They represented a financial commitment of 3.25 billion French francs for the period from 1993 to 1997, with the development of the Northern Province to be given priority. He further stated that in conformity with the obligation, the State had committed itself during the said period to the amount of 1.65 billion French francs for the contracts. 7/

41. Underlining the importance of the realization of those contracts, Mr. Le Pensec concluded by saying that the realization of those contracts had three essential objectives, namely, creation of wealth for the development of economic activities, equal distribution of that wealth in order progressively to eliminate old imbalances, and the improvement of living conditions of the population, particularly disadvantaged ones. 7/

B. Other developments

42. As provided for in the Matignon Agreements, New Caledonia is represented in the French National Assembly by two popularly elected deputies. As a result of the recently held parliamentary elections in France, Mr. Jacques Lafleur, leader of RPCR, was re-elected with 53.2 per cent in the first round of voting. Eight others had contested the seat, including Mr. Rock Wamytan, Vice-President of FLNKS who polled 14.3 per cent. 8/

43. In the second seat, the incumbent RPCR candidate, Mr. Maurice Nenou, won with 54.1 per cent of the votes against FLNKS candidate Mr. Léopold Jorédié, who polled 29.8 per cent in the field of six candidates. 8/

44. On 18 May 1993, Mr. Dominique Perben, the new Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories, received in Paris a delegation composed of Mr. Léopold Jorédié, president of New Caledonia's Northern Province, Mr. Richard Kaloi, president of the Islands Province and Mr. François Burk, president of L'Union Calédonienne, the main component of FLNKS. Speaking to the press after the meeting, the delegation indicated that it had received guarantees that the Matignon Agreements would continue to be respected and that the funds allocated in the development contracts would be maintained. 9/

45. In an interview granted to Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes prior to a visit to New Caledonia, Mr. Perben reiterated the position of the French Government, namely, that the future of New Caledonia depended on consultations held by the respective parties in New Caledonia. The Minister added that if they wished to consult him he would be available. In no instance, however, would his Government interfere with the internal process in New Caledonia. The Minister regretted the delays in remitting to the Territory funds for development projects in conformity with the Matignon Agreements, and said that he had taken steps to speed up the process. Within that framework, he had made contact with his government colleagues in the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Education and Environment to urge them to dispatch promptly the necessary funds. 10/

46. Mr. Perben visited New Caledonia from 14 to 16 June 1993, on the first leg of a two-week trip to the South Pacific, which included a visit to Wallis and Futuna and to French Polynesia. In an interview with the press, Mr. Perben stated that he was conveying a message from Mr. Edouard Balladur, the new Prime Minister of France, affirming his will to pursue France's policy of dialogue with all the partners and of more equitable economic distribution among the three provinces. His first remarks upon his arrival in the Territory confirmed that the French Government "was determined to pursue without any ambiguity the policy outlined in the Matignon Agreements". Mr. Perben went on to say that everyone, whatever his political leanings, must know that he was available for dialogue. 11/

47. Mr. Perben visited the three provinces successively (the South, the North and the Loyalty Islands) where he held consultations with political leaders, elected representatives of the political parties and the traditional chiefs. According to press reports, party leaders, including some elected representatives of FLNKS, said that they were appreciative of the frankness and openness of the statements made by Mr. Perben. 11/

48. During his stay at Nouméa, Mr. Perben received several delegations of political parties at the residence of the High Commissioner. Following the meeting with Mr. Perben, Mr. Joseph Pidjot, who headed the delegation of the Consultative Customary Council, reportedly stated that the discussions had centred mainly on difficulties encountered by the Council and on the land issue. The delegation of RPCR which was headed by Mr. Pierre Frogier is reported to have assured the Minister of its full cooperation and support. According to press reports, the delegation of FLNKS which was headed by Mr. Paul Néaoutyine, for its part, expressed the wish to maintain with the new Government the same relations of dialogue and transparency with regard to their respective positions as well as their realization and concerns about the question of equitable economic distribution. Mr. Néaoutyine further stated that the economic readjustment process should be conducted in a spirit of real decolonization. He

added, however, referring to the statement of the Minister, that his delegation was reassured to note that the Government did not intend to disrupt the process in progress. 11/

C. Official visits

49. It was reported that Mr. Maxime Carlot Korman, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, paid an official visit to New Caledonia in April 1993. One of the purposes of the week-long visit was to open the Vanuatu Consulate at Nouméa where, reportedly, several thousands of Vanuatu citizens live. While in New Caledonia, the Prime Minister had a meeting with Mr. Alain Christnacht, French High Commissioner to New Caledonia, and heads of all New Caledonian public service departments. 12/

50. During the said meeting, it was decided to set up a joint committee that would meet every three months in either country to oversee cooperation projects. Mr. Korman also met with the leaders of each of New Caledonia's three provinces, as well as leaders of the Rally for Caledonia in the Republic and the Union Calédonienne. Mr. Paul Néaoutyine, President of FLNKS, declined an invitation for talks with the Prime Minister, however. 12/

51. It was also reported that Mr. John Kaputin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, paid a five-day visit to New Caledonia in early April. The purpose of the visit was largely to examine the progress of the Matignon Agreements, as well as to explore the possibilities for scientific and cultural cooperation with New Caledonia. 13/

IV. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

52. The basis of New Caledonia's economy is the nickel industry, which accounts for most of the Territory's exports. Economic activities have for the most part been concentrated in the Southern Province where the capital, Nouméa, is located and where most inhabitants of European origin live.

53. In order to remedy such a situation and to ensure a more balanced economic development of all the regions of the Territory, the Matignon Agreements provide for a series of measures, including the decentralization and regionalization of a number of economic activities, as well as the launching of regional development programmes whose objectives are to meet the specific needs of each province.

54. In this connection, during the meeting of the Committee to Monitor the Matignon Agreements held in Paris in February 1993 (see paras. 26-41), the parties to the Agreements signed development contracts aimed at investing a total of 1.65 billion French francs in the economy of the Territory for the period from 1993 to 1997, representing an annual increase of more than 10 per cent as compared to previous contributions. In conformity with the spirit of the Matignon Agreements, approximately 75 per cent of that amount will be spent on various development projects in the Northern Province and the

Islands Province, while the Southern Province will receive 25 per cent. 14/ The priorities for the new contracts are social development, housing, initial training, development of the infrastructure and economic development.

B. Trade

Exports

55. New Caledonia's external trade is dominated by its chief commodity export, nickel. In 1992, New Caledonia exported 3.735 million metric tons of merchandise valued at CFPF 39,448 million. In volume, exports increased by 14.3 per cent, while in value they decreased by 14.1 per cent from 1991. According to Bulletin de Conjoncture for 1992, in volume, 96.1 per cent of exports consisted of nickel minerals. This represents an increase of 14.5 per cent from 1991. 4/

56. The most important mineral export in value for 1992 was ferro-nickel, which represented 52.6 per cent of total exports. 15/

Imports

57. In 1992, total imports amounted to CFPF 89,160 million, an increase of 0.4 per cent in value over 1991. In volume, imports took an inverse evolution: 878,400 metric tons of merchandise in 1992 as compared to 921,600 metric tons in 1991, representing 4.7 per cent decrease. 14/

58. The Territory's main imports for 1992 were: machines, equipment and electrical materials (20.3 per cent in value), food products (17 per cent) and transport materials (16.9 per cent).

59. The balance of trade for 1992 shows a deficit of CFPF 49,712 million (see table 1). This deficit is considerably higher than in the previous years. 14/

60. In 1992, New Caledonia's main trading partners in terms of imports were France and the European Economic Community (EEC) (excluding France). Imports from France represented 46.3 per cent of total imports and amounted to CFPF 41,294 million, an increase of 1.8 per cent over 1991 figures. The second was EEC (excluding France) with 14.9 per cent of total imports amounting to CFPF 13,307 million. Others, in order of importance, were Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States of America. 15/

61. In a related development, it has been reported that the French Government has been looking into the possibility of establishing a free trade zone within its South Pacific Territories, including New Caledonia. 16/ The move was one of several decided upon at a meeting of senior French military and civilian officials and elected representatives, held at Nouméa under the chairmanship of Mr. Louis Le Pensec, then Minister for Overseas Departments and Territories. The meeting called for continued foreign trade liberalization where New Caledonia is concerned and the speeding up of animal and plant health agreements with countries in the region to facilitate farm produce trade. The meeting urged that consideration be given to encouraging investment in New Caledonia. 16/

Table 1. Balance of trade

(Millions of CFP francs)

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Imports	59 832	63 353	65 395	88 608	86 929	88 798	89 160
Exports	23 573	20 653	50 814	77 900	47 031	45 917	39 448
Negative trade balance	-35 809	-42 700	-14 581	-10 708	-39 898	-42 881	-49 712

Source: Institut territorial de la statistique et des études économiques, Bulletin de Conjoncture, No. 32, fourth quarter 1990, pp. 10.5 and 10.6; ibid., No. 36, fourth quarter 1991, pp. 10.3 and 10.4; and ibid. No. 40, fourth quarter 1992, p. 10.4.

62. It was also reported that a group of 35 Australian industrialists, the highest level ever Australian trade delegation to visit New Caledonia, visited the Territory late in 1992, in order to explore trade possibilities. The move was facilitated by the relaxation of the Territory's import regulations. 17/

63. Press reports stated that, early in 1993, a zone of gold mineralization had been identified some 60 kilometres north of Nouméa. Samples taken show potential gold valued at between 17 grams and 45 grams per ton. New Caledonia has long been known for its rich resources in a variety of minerals. Practically all the attention was turned to the exploitation of only one mineral however, nickel, which, in its heyday accounted for 99 per cent of the value of New Caledonia's exports. The new discovery, known as the KOUM gold project has caused some excitement. 17/

C. Agriculture

64. Agriculture plays a relatively minor role in the economy of New Caledonia, although an estimated 34 per cent of the population, primarily Kanaks, depends on it.

65. Some 95 per cent of agriculturally productive land is mainly used for raising cattle and pigs. Maize, potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, coconuts, cassava, vegetables and fruits are the principal crops in the Territory. 18/

66. In 1989, the Land and Rural Development Agency was established as a public industrial and commercial organization which was to participate in rural development.

67. According to reports, New Caledonia has sent its first shipment of meat produce to Australia, under accords on agricultural produce signed with Australia and New Zealand in August 1992. The accords allow New Caledonia to export livestock produce, fruits and vegetables to the two countries. 19/

D. Fisheries

68. Ocean fishing has been of relatively little economic importance to the Territory. The main fisheries products are tuna (most of which are exported to Japan) and shrimp. In 1992, a total of 125.7 metric tons of fish, valued at CFPF 46.9 million, were exported as compared to 143.9 metric tons valued at CFPF 57.4 million in 1991. 15/

69. The total catch of shrimp in 1992 was a little over 700 metric tons, 9 per cent more than that of 1991. Of this, 434.5 metric tons of shrimp valued at CFPF 455.8 million were exported. France, followed by Australia and Japan, were the main importers of the Territory's shrimp. 15/

E. Mining

70. New Caledonia possesses the world's largest known nickel deposits, accounting for about 30 per cent of the world's known reserves. It has the third largest nickel production and supplies about 9 per cent of world nickel matte and ore requirements. 18/

71. In 1992, 39,370 metric tons of ferro-nickel and nickel matte were produced. Ferro-nickel represented more than half (51 per cent) of the exports in value, followed by nickel matte, with the main customers being France and Japan. France has declared nickel a strategic material and maintains strict control over mining. 18/ According to the Bulletin de Conjoncture for 1992, mineral production in 1992 has been generally equivalent to that of 1991. Production estimates for the first quarter of 1993 are higher than those of the preceding years, as a result of the favourable climatic conditions. 15/

72. Annual production of nickel at Kopeto, near Nepoui, in the Northern Province, was due to begin in 1992, and was projected at 15,000 metric tons. 18/

73. The signing of an agreement in mid-1991 between Societé le Nickel (SLN) and a Japanese steel company secured the purchase of 5,000 metric tons of nickel from the Territory annually for the years 1994 to 2004. 18/

74. It was decided by the review meeting to monitor the Matignon Agreements held in February 1993 (see paras. 26-41), that a study would be conducted on gaining local participation in the SLN nickel company. The importance of the sale in 1990 by Mr. Jacques Lafleur of his huge nickel company, the South Pacific Mining Company (SMSP), to the Northern Province was recognized as an important step in the economic rebalancing of the Territory. According to the review meeting, SMSP has been very profitable and in 1992 enabled the Northern Province to become the largest hotel owners in New Caledonia 4/ (see paras. 81-85).

F. Transport and communications

75. New Caledonia has one of the best air and road networks in the South Pacific. There is an international airport, Tontouta, 47 kilometres from Nouméa, and an internal network, centred on Magenta airport, which provides air services linking Nouméa to other towns and islands. 18/

76. Most maritime traffic in New Caledonia is through the port of Nouméa. Passenger and cargo services, linking Nouméa to other towns and islands, are regular and frequent. There are plans to develop Nepoui, in the Province of the North, as a deep-water port and industrial centre. During the review meeting to monitor the Matignon Agreements (see paras. 26-41), then Minister Le Pensec confirmed that France would finance the development of the port at Nepoui when feasibility studies were completed.

G. Tourism

77. Tourism is seen as the second most important sector of the economy after nickel mining. In December 1992, Mr. Jean-Michel Baylet, French Minister-delegate for Tourism, visited New Caledonia. During his stay in the Territory, Mr. Baylet was reported to have told reporters that while nickel had been the pillar of the Territory's economy, tourism had become the most promising sector for diversification. 20/ He was also reported to have stated that his meetings with Kanak Custom authorities, tourism professionals and both political and economic leaders had shown a unity in the desire to promote New Caledonia's economy through harmonious tourist development. 20/

78. According to Bulletin de Conjoncture, in 1992, 80,840 tourists visited New Caledonia as compared to 83,524 in 1991, a decrease of 3.2 per cent. This was a second consecutive year of decrease in tourism since 1990 which registered 86,870 tourists. 15/

79. The Japanese constituted the most important group of tourists in New Caledonia in 1992, representing 32.8 per cent of the total tourists, followed by the French (29.7 per cent) and Australians (16.9 per cent) (see table 2). 15/

80. In 1992, 67 cruise ships visited New Caledonia and 48,740 passengers disembarked, as against 38 ships and 36,997 passengers in 1991. 15/

81. It has been reported 21/ that the Northern Province of New Caledonia, controlled by FLNKS, has purchased a majority shareholding in Socaba which owns two hotels, including the Territory's largest hotel and the Casino Royale. The 53 per cent shareholding makes the province the largest hotel owner in the Territory. According to the report, the purchase was made through the Tourism Investment Company (CIT), a subsidiary of the South Pacific Mining Company (SMSP) which was acquired by the Territory from Mr. Lafleur, leader of RPCR. 21/

Table 2. Number of tourists, 1989-1992

	1989	1990	1991	1992
Japanese	27 358	28 781	25 675	26 484
French	21 054	22 638	23 807	23 977
Australians	13 974	14 066	14 167	13 699
New Zealanders	7 411	9 378	8 908	7 575
Others	12 364	12 007	10 967	9 105
	82 161	86 870	83 524	80 840

Source: Institut territorial de la statistique et des études économiques, Bulletin de Conjoncture, No. 32, fourth quarter 1990, p. 4.5; ibid., No. 36, fourth quarter 1991, p. 4.4; and ibid., No. 40, fourth quarter 1992, p. 4.5-4.6.

82. The transaction has reportedly disturbed Mr. Lafleur as the hotels and casino are in Nouméa in the Southern Province. He has described the purchase as "unacceptable" and as a "perversion of the Matignon Accords". 20/ The funds supplied from the Territory's budget to the government of the less developed Northern Province are, in his view, for the development of infrastructure and the encouragement of investment in that province, not for the takeover of investments in the south.

83. This view was contested, however, by the Northern Province which argued that ownership of those properties in the south could become a springboard enabling the north to develop its own tourism and offer viable packages of split holidays in both parts of the country. 21/

84. A statement released by the chief executive of CIT clarified that the investment was made "as part of an international strategy to harmonize tourism development of the interior and the islands using Nouméa, the natural entry point of visitors to the Territory". 21/

85. According to the same reports, Accor, which is the world's leading French hotel group, plans to make New Caledonia an important part of its Asia-Pacific development by allowing CIT, which owns the Malabo Beach Hotel and the Koulnoue Village Club Mediterranée in the Northern Province, to benefit from the quality hotel links at Nouméa.

V. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

86. Labour relations in New Caledonia are governed by the Code du Travail of 1982, as modified in 1986, which applies to all French Overseas Territories. There is a guaranteed minimum wage and there are a number of labour unions, including USTKE and the Union des syndicats ouvriers et employés de Nouvelle-Calédonie (USOENC).

87. According to the Bulletin de Conjoncture of 1992 unemployment has grown. In 1992, 3,887 persons were unemployed, an increase of 18 per cent over 1991 figures. Of the total unemployed, 64.2 per cent were in the Southern Province, 25.7 per cent in the Northern Province and 10.1 per cent in the Loyalty Islands. 15/

88. During the review meeting to monitor the Matignon Agreements (see paras. 26-41), it was pointed out that in three years since its signing, there had been favourable trends regarding labour force. Those trends included 8,404 new jobs, nearly three quarters of which were in the private sector, with the greater rate of increase being in Northern and Loyalty Island Provinces. 17/

89. Nouméa, which is located in the Southern Province, still has 88 per cent of the work force, so that any increase that occurs in the other provinces seems significant. For instance, in the Loyalty Islands Province, the salary-earning population increased by 183 per cent. There are now a recorded 920 salary earners in the Loyalty Islands, which have a population of 18,000. 17/

B. Public health

90. As previously reported (A/AC.109/1120), in 1986, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 226 medical practitioners, 22 dentists and 18 pharmacists in public service in the Territory. During that year, the ratio was one doctor to 460 inhabitants in Nouméa and one to 2,097 outside the capital. In 1988, medical personnel in private practice comprised 99 doctors, 28 dentists and 29 pharmacists. Most of them were based in and around Nouméa.

C. Educational conditions

91. Education in New Caledonia is free and compulsory for children between 6 and 14 years of age and is offered in the French language. Schools are operated by both the State and churches under the supervision of the Department of Education.

92. In 1990, the latest year for which information is available, in both pre-primary and primary schools, there were 279 schools, 1,696 teachers and 34,242 pupils. There were 74 secondary schools, of which 43 were general and 31 vocational, with 1,630 teachers and 21,000 pupils, while there were five institutions for higher learning, with 66 teachers and 1,007 students. 18/

93. At its annual meeting in Paris in February 1993 (see paras. 33-35 and 39), the review meeting to monitor the Matignon Agreements considered the question of education in New Caledonia, and concluded that more effort should be made to adapt the educational system to the needs of Kanaks and to building more schools.

94. The "operation 400 cadres", an accelerated training programme which produces senior and middle-ranking public servants, was deemed by the review meeting as an undeniable success.

95. In that regard, it was reported that currently there were 166 recruits in the programme, most of whom were Kanak, and that 63 had already returned to New Caledonia after successful training. The review meeting decided further to focus on the training of intermediate cadres for the private sector and to open the scheme up to trainees for the education sector. The meeting also decided to pursue more vigorously the teaching of, and in, Kanak languages. The meeting decided that the education system should be more open to the South Pacific with the aim of facilitating the recognition of degrees and diplomas.

Notes

1/ The Europa World Year Book 1992, vol. I, p. 1147.

2/ Ibid., p. 1146.

3/ Ibid., p. 1148.

4/ Pacific Report, vol. 6, No. 3, 22 February 1993.

5/ The local currency of the Territory is the CFP (Communanté financière du Pacifique) franc. In 1992, 100 CPF francs were equivalent to 5.5 French francs.

6/ Speech by Mr. Pierre Bérégovoy, Prime Minister, at the Quatrième Comité du Suivi des Accords de Matignon, 4 February 1993.

7/ Speech by Mr. Louis Le Pensec, Minister of Overseas Departments and Overseas Territories, on signature of development agreements between the State and the three provinces of New Caledonia, 4 February 1993.

8/ Pacific Report, vol. 6, No. 6, 5 April 1993.

9/ Le Bulletin Quotidien, 19 May 1993.

10/ Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes, 11 June 1993.

11/ Le Monde (Paris), 15 June 1993.

12/ Pacific Report, vol. 6, No. 8, 3 May 1993.

13/ Ibid., No. 7, 13 April 1993.

Notes (continued)

14/ Ibid., No. 3, 22 February 1993; see also Bilan du Quatrième Comité de Suivi des Accords de Matignon.

15/ Institut territorial de la statistique et des études économiques, Bulletin de Conjoncture, No. 40, fourth quarter 1992.

16/ Pacific Report, vol. 5, No. 18, 17 September 1992.

17/ Pacific Magazine, January-February 1993, p. 32.

18/ The Far East and Australasia, 24th ed., Europa Publications, Ltd., 1993.

19/ South Pacific-Radio Australia News Summary, 24 August 1992; see also Pacific Report, vol. 5, No. 17, 3 September 1992.

20/ Pacific Report, 14 December 1992.

21/ The Economist Intelligence Unit: Pacific Islands Country Report No. 1, 1993; see also Le Monde (Paris), 4 November 1992; and Islands Business Pacific, Sydney, November 1992.